

Practice literacy skills

To drive student achievement and reading comprehension



Every opportunity to read is an opportunity to practice literacy skills.

- What are examples of this that you have seen?
- What opportunities exist in your class for students to learn and/or practice literacy skills?
- What type of content is best for practicing these skills?



Build a weekly skills routine with Newsela

Set specific routines with Newsela so it becomes second nature for students



Newsela Day

Pick a day of the week for Newsela reading. Alternate between teacher-assigned reading and student choice.

Weekly Skill Focus

Select a specific literacy skill to focus on. Choose the skill based curriculum connections like upcoming lessons, testing, etc.

Reteach

Use formative assessment data to decide which skills to review. Share high-interest, articles to reteach and practice.

TIP:

Present mode makes it easy to model skills for students.

Ways to use Newsela to build literacy skills

Introduce and practice a range of skills from finding the main idea to identifying text structures

Direct instruction

I do

teach specific skills through modeling and examples.

Practice

We do

provide opportunities for students to practice literacy skills.

Broad application

You do

help students apply literacy skills across genres and content areas.



Use the reading skills filter

Find texts related to your lessons with quizzes aligned to skills your students need most.

Filter to the following skills:

- *What the text says*
- *Main Idea*
- *Key Details*
- *Summarization*
- *Connecting People, Events & Ideas*
- *Word Meaning & Choice*
- *Text Structure*
- *Point of View & Purpose*
- *Interpret Multimedia*
- *Arguments & Claims*
- *Theme*

The screenshot shows the Newsela website interface. At the top, there's a search bar with the text "What do you want to teach?". Below it are tabs for "All Content Types", "Articles", "Worksheets", "Videos", "Standards", and "Text Sets". A "Filters" section includes "Reading Level", "Grade Level", "Instructional Features", "Reading Skills", and "Clear Filters". The "Reading Skills" filter is expanded, showing a list of skills with checkboxes. The skills listed are: "What the text says", "Main Idea", "Key Details", "Summarization", "Connecting People, Events & Ideas", "Word Meaning & Choice", "Text Structure", "Point of View & Purpose", "Interpret Multimedia", "Arguments & Claims", and "Theme". The "What the text says" option is checked. Below the filter menu, there are search results for "10000 results available". The results include articles like "George and Martha Washington were early fans of ice cream at Mount Vernon estate" and "The gay 'Sip Rights Move'", and an infographic titled "A look at how solar panels work".

Assign standards-aligned quizzes regularly

Quizzes:

- Provide students with immediate feedback
- Help teachers track how students are performing with key skills

Quizzes also help inform reading level

After reading five articles and completing quizzes, students will begin to receive articles at their reading level rather than at the grade level of their classroom.

The screenshot shows the Newsela website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Newsela logo, 'Educator Center', and a subject filter for 'VT ELA / SS / SCI'. Below the navigation bar are links for 'Search', 'Browse', 'Your Content', 'Assignments', and 'Binder'. The main article title is 'Checkmate: School custodian coaches student chess teams to victory in Maine'. Below the title are buttons for 'English', 'MAX', 'Assign', and 'Print'. A blue line connects the 'Assign' button to a quiz overlay on the right. The quiz overlay is titled 'Quiz' and contains the question: 'What conclusion is BEST supported by the paragraph?'. The options are:

- A David Bishop has a lot of past experience as a chess coach.
- B David Bishop prefers working with middle school students.
- C David Bishop is passionate about helping students learn chess. (Marked as the correct answer with a green checkmark)
- D David Bishop spends more time coaching than being a custodian.

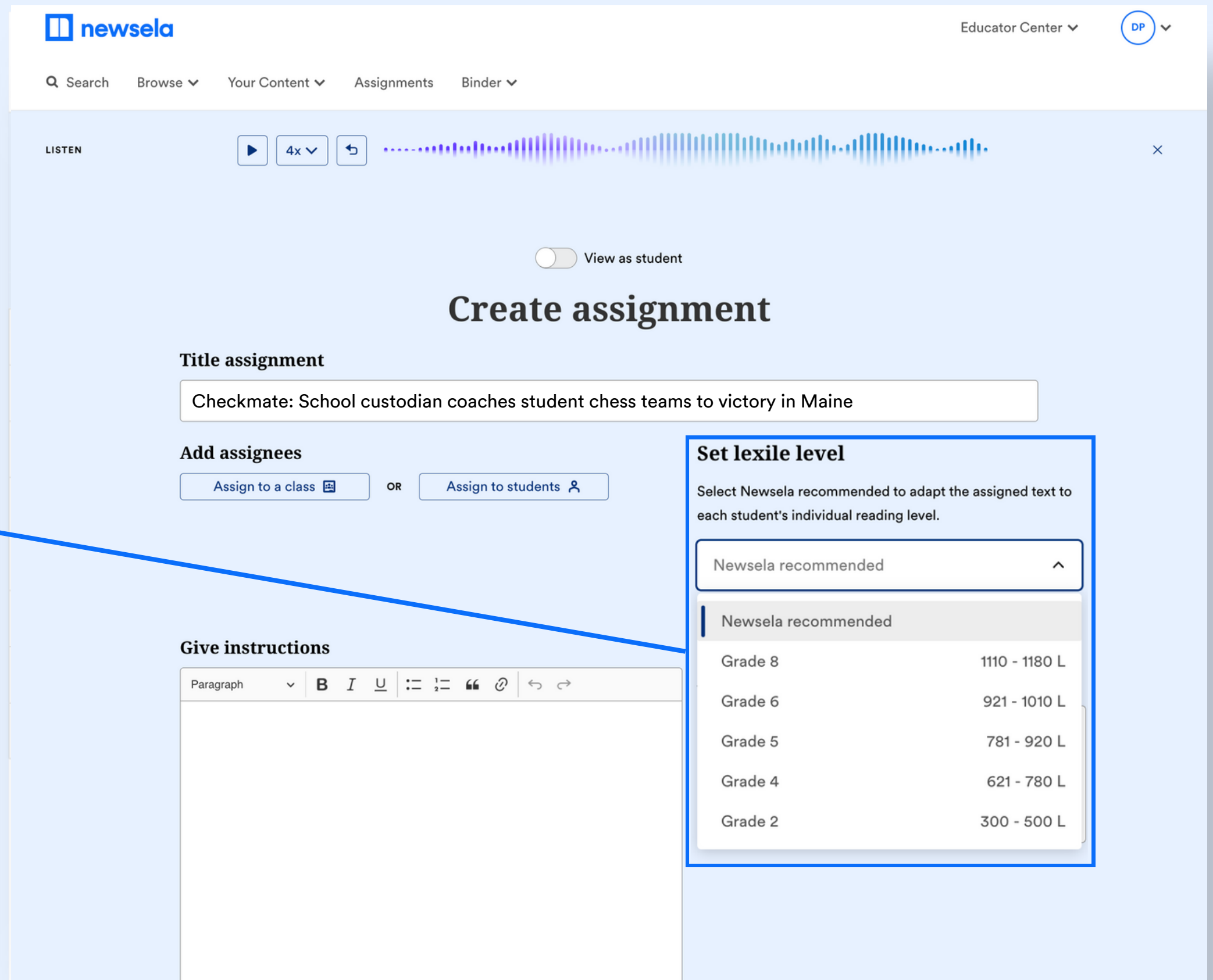
 A 'Next' button is at the bottom of the quiz overlay. On the left side of the article, there is a vertical toolbar with icons for 'Share', 'Save', 'Hide', 'Add', 'Present', 'Size: S', 'Count', and 'Listen'. The article text below the image reads: 'By Sydney Page, The Washington Post', 'RECOMMENDED FOR Upper Elementary School – Middle School', 'WORDS 1127 | TEXT LEVEL 7 | PUBLISHED 6/25/2023', and 'As a chess coach, David Bishop is often asked the same question by his students: "Mr. Bishop, what's your favorite chess piece?"'.

Leverage leveled texts

Texts in Newsela are available at 5 different reading levels.

You can set the reading level or let Newsela set it automatically at each student's reading level.

Setting the reading level ensures your students get practice reading and developing skills at grade level. Use the Newsela recommended level as a way to help students work up to grade-level tasks.



newsela Educator Center DP

Q Search Browse Your Content Assignments Binder

LISTEN 4x

View as student

Create assignment

Title assignment

Checkmate: School custodian coaches student chess teams to victory in Maine

Add assignees

Assign to a class OR Assign to students

Give instructions

Paragraph B I U

Set lexile level

Select Newsela recommended to adapt the assigned text to each student's individual reading level.

Newsela recommended

Newsela recommended	
Grade 8	1110 - 1180 L
Grade 6	921 - 1010 L
Grade 5	781 - 920 L
Grade 4	621 - 780 L
Grade 2	300 - 500 L

Annotations

Helps students engage in active learning by highlighting and taking notes within a text.

Suggested routine:

- *I do (direct instruction) - Use the annotation tool to model skill application during whole-class read or small group instruction.*
- *We do (guided practice) - Invite students to annotate alongside you.*
- *You do (independent practice) - In the assignment instructions, prompt students to use the annotation tool to highlight or comment.*

Ideas to use the four highlight colors:

Questions = yellow

Main idea = green

Key details = blue

Connections = pink

The screenshot shows the Newsela website interface. At the top, there's a navigation bar with 'newsela' logo, 'Educator Center', and a user profile 'AS'. Below the navigation, there are search and filter options: 'Search', 'Browse', 'Your Content', 'Assignments', and 'Binder'. The main article title is 'Checkmate: School custodian coaches student chess teams to victory in Maine'. Below the title, there are filters for 'English', '680L', and an 'Assign' button. A large image shows a man (Mr. Bishop) sitting at a table with several children, playing chess. Below the image, there's a byline: 'By Sydney Page, The Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff'. It also shows 'RECOMMENDED FOR Upper Elementary School – Middle School', 'WORDS 600', 'TEXT LEVEL 4', and 'PUBLISHED 6/25/2023'. The article text starts with 'David Bishop's students often ask him the same question. "Mr. Bishop, what's your favorite chess piece?"'. Below that, it says 'Bishop, who is a chess coach, answers that the bishop is one of his favorite pieces. But the queen is his very favorite.'. A blue callout box on the right side of the screenshot is titled 'Annotations' and shows two examples of blue highlights. The first highlight is on the text 'the queen is his very favorite.' with a comment 'A. Saedi'. The second highlight is on the text 'He's been a custodian there for the past six years.' with a comment 'A. Saedi'. Both highlights are labeled 'Blue' and 'UNSHARED'.

Skill-building tools and student activities

Check out these short videos for an overview of some of the skill-building features Newsela teachers love most.



Lesson Sparks

Instructional supports and ideas that make lesson planning easier - including suggestions related to skill-building.



Write prompts

Opportunities for students to demonstrate skills. Use the Newsela provided prompt or create your own.



Small group assignments

Options to target specific skills for individual students or small groups.



Power Words (ELA only)

Vocabulary support with In-context definitions a Tier II vocabulary words and connected activities.

For ELA classrooms, try these collections* to practice skills

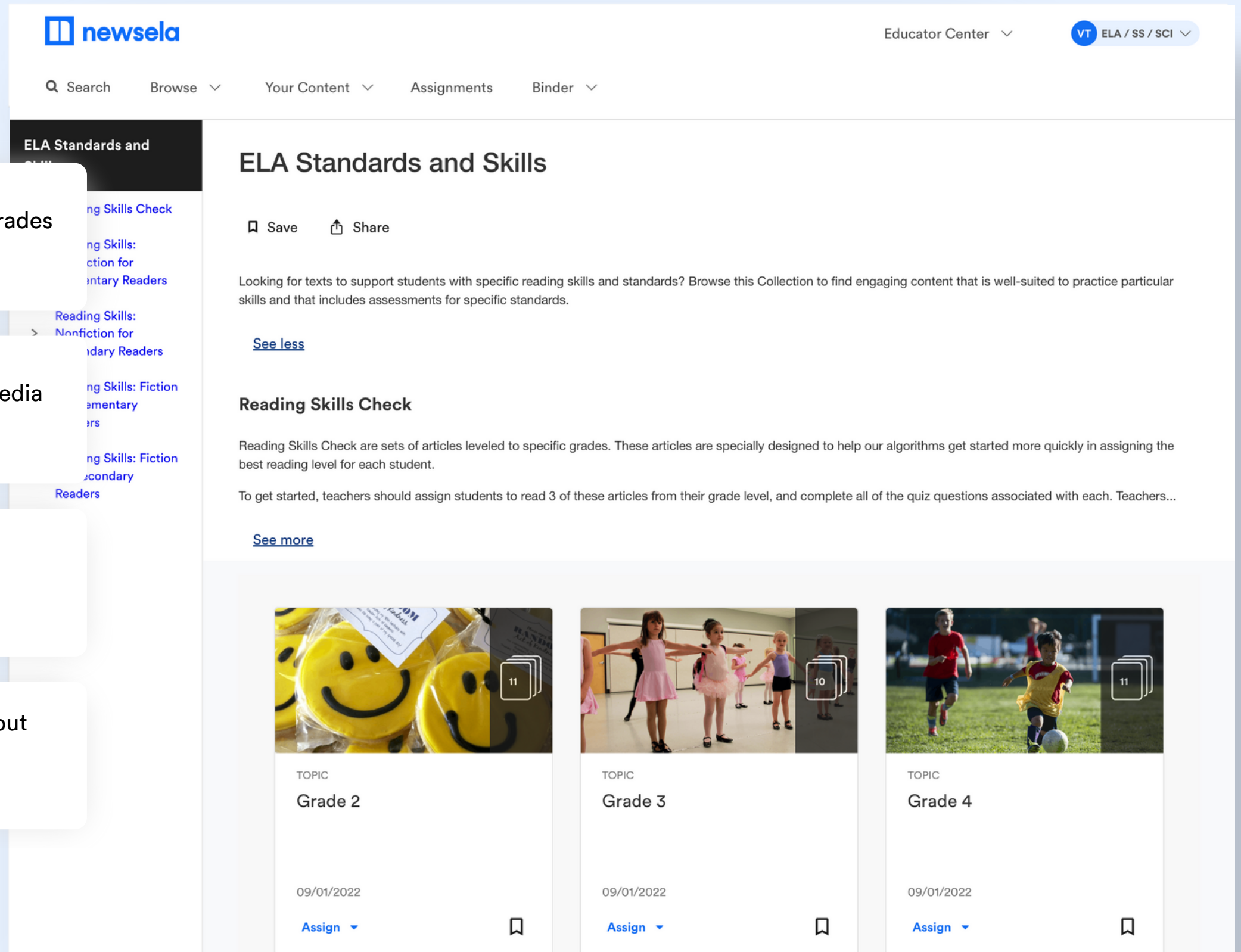
[ELA Standards and Skills Collection](#) Texts, videos, and resources for grades 3-12, fiction and nonfiction.

[ELA Videos: Skills and Concepts](#) Videos on topics from theme to media skills to writing conclusions.

[Teach this Poem](#) Lessons to deepen students' understanding of poetry.

[Reading Skills Check Collection](#) Texts with extended quizzes that put students on their recommended reading level quickly.

*Available to Newsela ELA users



Try these collections* to practice literacy skills relevant to social studies

- [Key Concepts and Skills](#)

Essential background on concepts from core social studies courses.
- [Explainer videos](#)

Key information on historical events, people, and ideas reinforce grade-level concepts and deepen connections.
- [Primary sources](#)

Historical documents, speeches, firsthand accounts, and more to help build skills from summarization to argumentation.
- [This Week in History](#)

Weekly opportunities to practice literacy skills in the context of social studies.

*Available to Newsela Social Studies users

Try these collections* to practice literacy skills relevant to science

[Claim-Evidence-Reasoning collection](#)

Focused practice in supporting claims with evidence on a range of topics and concepts with resources that provide background and teacher tips.

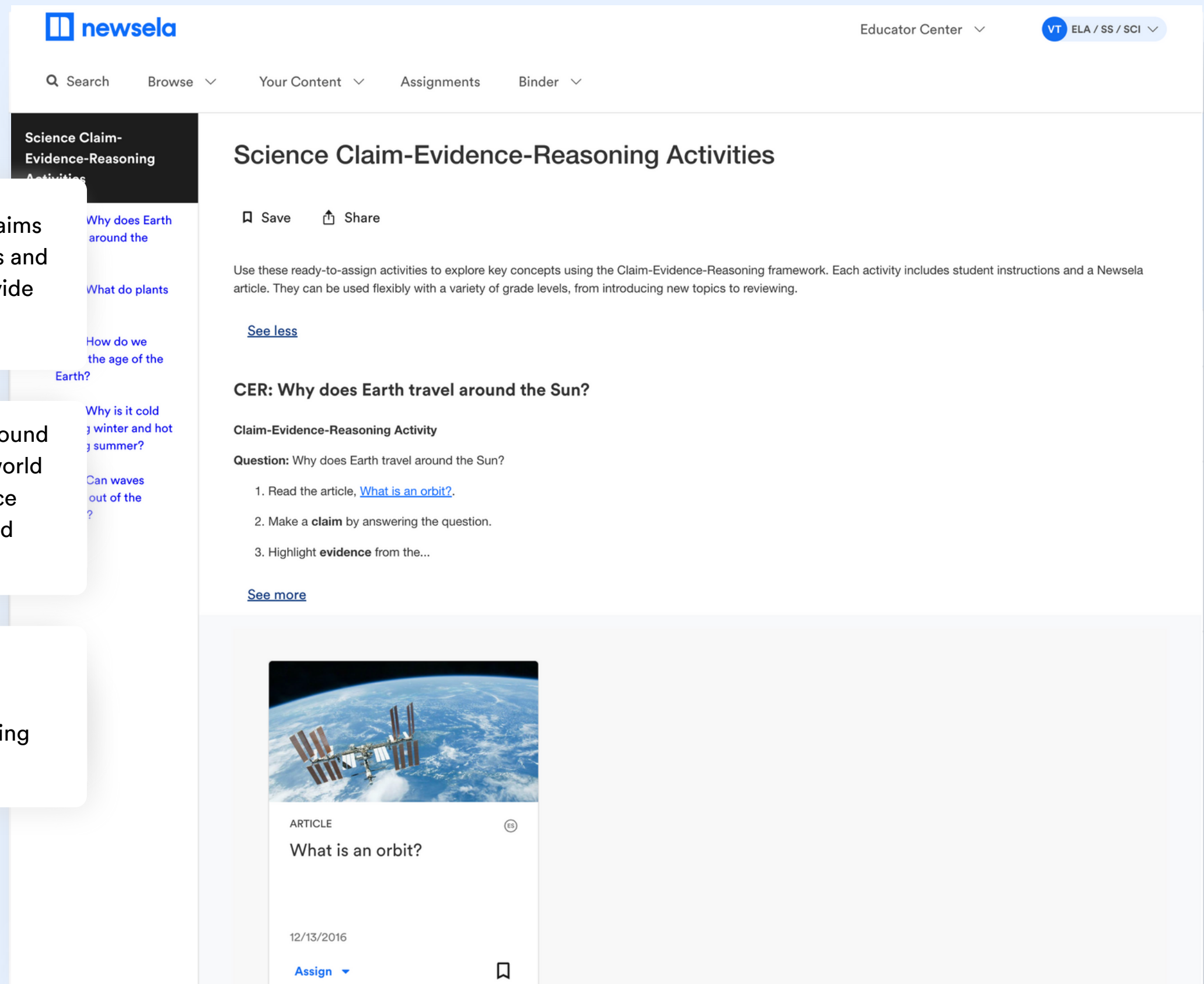
[Everyday Mysteries](#)

High-engagement lessons built around fun science questions about the world - includes activities to build science literacy skills, PDF worksheets, and extension content to explore.

[Science in the News](#)

Easy-to-assign lessons based on current news topics for building literacy skills while reading engaging science stories.

*Available to Newsela Science users



The screenshot shows the Newsela Science interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the Newsela logo, a search bar, and menu items for 'Browse', 'Your Content', 'Assignments', and 'Binder'. On the right side of the navigation bar, it says 'Educator Center' and 'VT ELA / SS / SCI'. The main content area is titled 'Science Claim-Evidence-Reasoning Activities'. Below the title, there are 'Save' and 'Share' icons. A paragraph of text explains that these are ready-to-assign activities for the CER framework. Below this is a 'See less' link. The next section is titled 'CER: Why does Earth travel around the Sun?'. Underneath, it says 'Claim-Evidence-Reasoning Activity' and 'Question: Why does Earth travel around the Sun?'. A list of three steps follows: 1. Read the article, [What is an orbit?](#). 2. Make a claim by answering the question. 3. Highlight evidence from the... Below the list is a 'See more' link. At the bottom of the screenshot, there is a preview of an article titled 'What is an orbit?' with a date of 12/13/2016 and an 'Assign' button.

Appendix

Contents

- [View our other Newsela Guides](#)
- [Links to How-To Videos](#)
- [Link to Companion Guide](#)



Enhance your instruction with Newsela with these professional learning options

Get started with Newsela

Learn the basics for long-term Newsela success with this collection of curated resources.

[View Resource](#)

Build background knowledge

Boost learners' confidence and understanding with this group of results-driven resources.

[View Resource](#)

Include diverse perspectives


Create a more lively and inclusive classroom using this selection of dedicated resources

[View Resource](#)

[← Back to Start](#)

Looking for more help? Check out these additional resources.

 [What is Newsela?](#)

 [How to find and save content on Newsela](#)

 [How to assign Newsela articles to students](#)

 [How to use article tools & activities](#)

 [How to annotate text in articles for students](#)


 [How to review student assignments on Newsela](#)

 [The student experience on Newsela.com](#)

 [How to track student progress in your Newsela Binder](#)

 [How to assign content to small groups of students](#)

 [How to use Lesson Sparks](#)

 [How to find and use text sets with your class](#)

 [How to use and edit write prompts in your assignments](#)

 [Download Companion Guide](#)